

Dashboard of Ecosystem Indicators Next Steps

Broadly stated, and in no specific order, our collective next steps for working with the new Dashboard Indicators (as excerpted from the Leadership Council Dashboard of Ecosystem Indicators presentation on July 30, 2010) are, as follows:

- Establish new Indicator Champions to collaboratively move the Dashboard forward
- Tell the Dashboard of Ecosystem Indicators story – using a formal Communications Plan-driven process
- Continuously test ecological importance and social resonance
- Collect, cleanse and analyze the associated data
- Work select families of indicators through the Open Standards process

More Specifically

With our new Science Director and Chief Information Officer in place, we have collectively developed the following more specific work plans:

1. **Select four remaining Indicator Champions** – Once our Indicator Champions have been selected, the plan is to arrange for a meeting between them and the Indicators Action Team where the process that the Indicators Action Team followed to develop the Dashboard of Ecosystem Indicators will be explained. This is important so that everyone can be on the same page as to the assumptions involved, the critical role of the Indicator Champions going forward, and our collective next steps. Our plan is to involve our new Indicator Champions in this process and use their input to help guide our efforts.
2. **Describe current state of the data** - Complete information is to be gathered to describe the current state of the data (i.e., metadata) using a standard set of attributes that may include: indicator name, operational definition, data source(s), years of data available, temporal resolution, spatial resolution, costs of program, additional cost, etc.

We already have much of that metadata, but there may be more we need to complete the description. We will ask each Indicator Champion to provide the necessary information for their Dashboard indicator. Using the Open

Standards' Miradi template may prove helpful in this regard. It is intended that this information be included in the Miradi software database.

Through the metadata documentation process, we expect to identify other possible data sources. We also expect that through this process, ideas for other key measures, improvement of our operational definitions, other needs for improvement, potential needs for more funding, and other data sources will emerge.

3. Cleanse and visualize the data - Ask Indicator Champions to provide figures or tables to show the status and/or trends of the data for each of their Dashboard indicators and any associated measures of importance in that context. Indicator Champions will also be asked to develop brief narrative descriptions of the situation surrounding their indicator, to help in assessing the data, understanding the data, and providing a place to start to improve the depiction of the data and standardization of the depictions across our Dashboard indicators overall.

4. Analyze the indicators and our associated results data - For all or some subset of our Dashboard indicators, Indicator Champions will be asked to (and supported in the process of) serving on interdisciplinary teams to evaluate whether the data collection systems and data analysis for each indicator are of sufficiently high quality, well coordinated, and properly funded.

5. Potentially identify opportunities to improve monitoring – Our Dashboard indicators work may form the basis for Dashboard indicator-focused workgroups that would work on developing and improving our monitoring plans. All indicators may not require teams for this sort of work, but given that the coordination of indicators teams may require significant investments of both time and energy, we may need to sequence the work, i.e., not have all the teams being developed and working at one time, but instead focus on addressing the most important Dashboard indicators first (as they are strategically best suited and are being sequenced through the Open Standards process).

6. Develop three Dashboard looks for use with deploying the Dashboard indicators – The indicators will be used in the State of the Sound publication, on the Partnership's web site, in PartnerNet, and in a variety of other forums and venues over time. It is important that we develop a few looks or Dashboard designs to ensure that the Dashboard indicators are both well-communicated and resonate with our various key stakeholder audiences.

7. Deploy the Dashboard indicators Sound- and web-wide – The Partnership's new information technology tools, such as the Exchange Network and PartnerNet are not sufficient for doing the work necessary related to deploying the Partnership's Dashboard work. We must decide on an accountability tracking system given the current possibilities (QuickBase, Habitat Work Schedule and Chesapeake's registry system free source code are the top three currently under consideration).